

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05019 170558Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 H-01 L-03 /022 W
-----043577 170600Z /13

R 141629Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2595

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5019

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJ: BLACK HEBREWS

REF: TEL AVIV 4641

1. IN DISCUSSING BLACK HEBREWS AND CONGRESSMAN DIGGS' CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD GOI REGULARIZATION OF THEIR STATUS, MICHAEL BAVLY OF MFA NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOI HAS NOW OFFERED RESIDENCE STATUS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP, FOR THOSE RESIDING IN ISRAEL. HOWEVER, COMMUNITY LEADER BEN-AMI CARTER IS REPORTEDLY HOLDING OUT FOR AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE LAW OF RETURN, WHICH GOI IS UNABLE TO GIVE, SINCE THIS WOULD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS WITH DUBIOUS RELIGIOUS AND FAMILIAL CREDENTIALS AS JEWS SEEKING ENTRY.

2. BERNARD RESNIKOFF, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON THIS SUBJECT. HE KEEPS HIS HOME OFFICE (AND PRESUMABLY OTHER GROUPS CONCERNED WITH THE STATUS OF THE BLACK HEBREWS) INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. HE WILL MEET WITH MINISTER BURG ON APRIL 19 AND WILL INFORM US OF THE RESULTS OF THAT MEETING. HE CONFIRMED THAT LACK OF PROGRESS IS DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO THE DEMAND OF THE GROUP THAT IT RECEIVE EQUAL STATUS WITH JEWS.
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ON THAT BASIS PROSPECTS FOR ACCOMMODATION WOULD SEEM SLIM.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: MINORITIES
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLACK HEBREWS
TAGS: CASC, IS
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